

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
December 12, 2022

MINUTES

Present: Holly Stevens, Chair, Lisa Adams, Michael Auerbach, Kathy Bates, Jake Berry, Tamme Dustin, Joan Fitzgerald, Ellen Keith, Ellen McCahon, Dawn McKinney, Paula Minnehan, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, Karen Rosenberg, Rhonda Siegel, Lisabritt Solsky Stevens, Carolyn Virtue, Brendan Williams, Elinor Wozniakowski

Excused: Lisa DiMartino

Alternates: Brooke Belanger, Déodonné Bhattarai, Amy Girouard, Emily Johnson, Jonathan Routhier, Jim Zibailo

DHHS: Henry Lipman, Ann Landry, Alyssa Cohen, Olivia May, Sarah Finne, Dawn Tierney, Shirley Iacopino, Laura Ringelberg, Leslie Melby, Sarah Wildermann, Krysten Finefrock, Tashia Blanchard, Francesca Hennessey, Jordan McCormick, Jody Farwell, Sara Lacharite, Kerri Schroeder, Janine Corbett, Deb Sorli, Catrina Rantala

Guests: Lucy Hodder, Deb Fournier, Vanessa Blais, Krystal Chase, Susan Paschell, Rob Hockmuth, Jesse Fennelly, Brooke Holton, Lisa Pettengil, Lara McIntyre, Amy Pidhurney, Heidi Kroll, Stephanie Myers, Rachel Chumbley, Debra Lang, Deb Ritcey, Janan Archibald, Sharrieffa Jones

Announcements

New staff: Vernon Clough will be the new Administrator for the Medicaid Medical Services Unit. Krysten Finefrock is the new Administrative Assistant for Medicaid. Sarah Lacharite has joined the Medicaid Policy Unit.

Minutes – November 7, 2022

The minutes will reflect corrections to names and attendance.

Dental Benefit: The minutes accurately captured the discussion about direct payment to certified dental hygienists. Medicaid must adhere to requirements and limitations set forth in state law and Board of Dental Examiners regulations. The ability to directly reimburse dental hygienists would require a change to the regulations.

Follow up with Krystal Chase regarding membership will be made by the Membership Committee.

Motion: Accept minutes as amended. M/S/A

Agenda Items – January 9, 2023

- CMS HCBC Quality Standards
- He-M 310, Rights of Persons Receiving Developmental Services or Acquired Brain Disorder Services in the Community Rules.
- Medicaid Expansion: Letter of Support

Membership Committee

Carolyn Virtue

Motion:

Accept the resignation of individual member Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre effective December 11, 2022.

Affirm the appointment of Vanessa Blais as a new individual member with Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre as her alternate.

M/S/A

Members interested in joining the Membership Committee should email Leslie Melby.

Adult Dental Benefit Update

Sarah Finne, DMD, Medicaid Dental Director

DHHS meets weekly with Delta Dental and DentaQuest to hit all markers for the April 1 implementation of the dental benefit for adults age 21+. Provider recruitment is the top priority to ensure an adequate provider network using a tiered approach of providers who are: already Medicaid enrolled; enrolled with Medicaid but not with Delta Dental; and others.

Delta Dental will encourage recruitment, followed by DentaQuest communications. DHHS workgroups are addressing network development, provider and member relations, and financial management to ensure that contract requirements for readiness are met.

CMS is aware of NH's tight timetable for submission of the 1115 waiver in order to meet the 4/1/23 implementation date. The waiver is posted for [comments](#) until January 6, 2023 at [medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/82561](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/82561).

Q&A:

- Will all dental specialties be covered? All dental specialties, including oral surgeons, will be covered.
- Can Medicaid require Delta Dental to require its provider network to cover Medicaid? Medicaid cannot, but will raise the topic with Delta.
- Will a list of enrolled providers be available? There will be multiple sites to find providers lists.
- Will PSAs be used to disseminate information? An approach is being developed to publicize the benefit.
- Will dental hygienists be reimbursed as providers of primary preventive services per the professional guidelines of the NHDHA? There is ongoing discussion on this issue. Current NH Board of Dental Examiners rules do not allow direct reimbursement to dental hygienists.

Public Health Emergency: Medicaid Continuous Enrollment

Lucy Hodder, Deb Fournier, UNH Health Law & Policy, Alyssa Cohen, Deputy Medicaid Director

There was no federal notice in November for a January end to the PHE. Therefore, the PHE is expected to end around April 11, 2023: Feb 10: CMS will notify states; March: unwind begins; May 1: protected cases will begin to be closed; June 30: higher federal match for protected cases will end.

As of Dec 5, Medicaid enrollment was 246,616, a 37% increase since Feb 2019. Of 176,154 Medicaid households, 68,042 or 38% in protected status. Granite Advantage is the largest category at 46,625 followed by children – 34,944; elderly/disabled – 6,523. Additional strategies are being developed to encourage families to complete redeterminations.

There were 21,512 overdue redeterminations for those with protected status. Voluntary closures are being tracked. Approximately 810 cases closed at the request of the individual due to other insurance, moving out of state, or other reasons. Voluntary closure reporting will continue to the end of the PHE. Individuals who indicate to their MCO or through the DHHS call center that they wish to close their Medicaid are then contacted directly by BFA staff to confirm the closure request.

Contact Alyssa Cohen for collateral materials about the PHE unwind to share with Medicaid members, providers, and stakeholders.

Department Updates:

Disability Determinations

Kerri Schroeder, Bureau of Family Assistance

As of Nov 23, 2022: 20 children pending of which 7 had Medicaid; 223 adults pending of which 171 (77%) had Medicaid, 12 pending medical records, 2 information requested, 61 over 90 days, 30 ready for write-up or final sign-off, 17 consultative exams scheduled, 1 HC-CSD case 90+ days due to providers' lack of timely response.

MCO Contract

Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director

The MCO contract amendment is under negotiation for 1/1/23 implementation. The PHE extension affects total members covered due to lower acuity of protected members. Additional adjustments are based on legislative changes and the addition of Hampstead Hospital as a state-owned facility for the IMD waiver.

American Rescue Plan Act HCBS Spending Plan

Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director

CMS approved the HCBS Spending Plan for FFY 2023, Quarter 1. SPAs and planning methodologies require further approval. The Department is looking at diversion funding to prevent institutionalization before individuals become eligible. The plan will be sent following the meeting.

Waivers

Alyssa Cohen, Deputy Medicaid Director

- The SUD-SMI 1115 waiver extension federal comment period closed Nov 16, 2022.
- The SUD-SMI 1115 waiver is being further amended to cover dentures for nursing home patients. The federal comment period ends Jan 6, 2023.
- 1915(j) Personal Care: CMS is currently requesting information. This state plan amendment allows relatives to provide in-home care after the PHE ends for family members who are unable to fill private duty nursing hours. The 1915(j) is intended to continue the current program under the 1135 Disaster Waiver that allows family members to be paid for providing personal care to their loved ones under certain conditions. The current program will end when the PHE ends.
A question was raised about whether income from these services is tax exempt. People are advised to consult with their tax professionals.
- 1915(i) Supportive Housing: The Department is meeting with other states with existing 1915(i) supportive housing to get an understanding of how to best implement the program.

Rule: Consent

He-W 521 General Payment Information

Francesca Hennessy of Program Integrity summarized the rule. There are no substantive changes. Current practice is contained in federal law and billing manuals. He-W 521 puts federal and state citations, definitions, general payment terms, third party liability, and provider responsibilities all in one place.

Meeting adjourned.